

The Brethren Evangelist.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY.

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ASHLAND, OHIO, JANUARY 10, 1894.

DARK DAYS.

"Man that is born of woman is of few days and full of trouble. He cometh forth like a flower, and is cut down: he fleeth also as a shadow, and continueth not." Life at its brightest is much obscured by clouds of sorrow. When we say peace and safety then cometh sudden destruction.

If there is one earthly blessing which we esteem above another it is the sweetness of rosy childhood. When these blossoms fade and die in our arms we feel that the world is without fragrance, beauty or cheer. Oh, God pity the parents bereft of their children. No blow seems to so paralyze all human ambition as the removal from our fireside the "buds of hope." There are many dark days, but none so hopelessly dark as those in which we follow to the grave those for whom we have most lived. When we think we hear death knocking at the doors of our homes and calling for our little ones how our hearts palpitate, and how short our breathing becomes.

On last Wednesday our little Homer delivered the EVANGELISTS to the machine on which they were stitched. (He was eight years old Dec. 27th.) He was in his usual bright and happy mood. He ate a rather heavy lunch at noon, and at supper could not eat. We did not think of anything serious however because he has been having trouble with his stomach for past seven or eight months. Our physician pronounced his trouble indigestion, and prescribed accordingly.

After supper the boy was manipulating his stomach and remarked to his mamma, "right here is the place that hurts. Put your finger there." She did so, and found a very hard lump. I was then called. There seemed to be a lump the size of a small head of cabbage, and very hard. To us this meant a large tumor. As none of the treatment for indigestion had done any good we now felt that this had been the source of the trouble and not indigestion at all. But if human skill could afford any relief we thought it

could be found only in the surgeon's knife.

We called in a physician at once for counsel. He expressed the opinion that the lump was possibly an impaction of the bowels, but more probably a tumor attached to the outside of the Colon. He advised us to make haste to put our boy under the care of an abdominal specialist. Accordingly we took the first train the following morning for Chicago.

We hardly knew how to leave the office as we were already behind with our work, but knowing that the claims of our child's life must be met regardless of any inconvenience it might be to our kind patrons, we decided to make Chicago our office until we could do better. By this we were compelled to leave the correcting of manuscript and proof-reading received for this paper to Bro. Garber who kindly consented to do the best he could.

Upon our arrival in Chicago on Thursday evening we were met by Bro. Orr who took us to the doctor for counsel and preliminary examination. He pronounced the difficulty impaction, but said it was the worst case he has ever seen. He has been treating the child since, but without any noticeable effect whatever up to date, Monday, Jan. 8. He begins to think that it can only be removed by cutting down to it. To us this seems like a horrible thing to do, and yet it is the only hope given us for saving our dear Homer's life. We crave an interest in your prayers to God that he may spare our child.

Address us,

S. J. HARRISON,
1884, Thirty-eighth St., Chicago.

POSTAL REPORTS.

There is absolutely nothing which is so much appreciated in our paper by the majority of our readers as the "Postal Reports." Last year a majority of the congregations appointed a "reporter." Most of these, have been faithful, and have the gratitude of the friends of the EVANGELIST. We think it would be well for congregations to make these appointments *annually* at their last regular service in December. Where the old "reporters" have been faithful and efficient they should be continued from year to year, but where they have been careless and negligent or offensive a change should be made.

It is not intended by these appointments to hinder any one else from contributing the news of the church whenever he or she may feel like doing so; but to make it a *duty* for some one to represent every congregation in the Brotherhood. We should like the first report of the year to be somewhat historical and statistical. The following questions should be answered if possible:

1. When, where, and by whom was the class or congregation organized, and with

how many members and what officers and property?

2. What has been its growth numerically, spiritually, officially and financially?

3. Give the names of members who have died since you organized.

How many members have you?

4. Who is your pastor? How often do you have preaching? What is the average attendance under favorable circumstances? How many families are without the EVANGELIST?

5. What Auxiliaries have you, and what has been the success of each? Who is the secretary of each?

6. How much money was raised in your congregation last year for religious purposes?

7. Name any item of interest not included in the above.

QUERIES.

1. Why did you *blue score* the paid up subscribers. It raises a suspicion that I did not send in their money. You surely make thereby a wrong impression? 2. How is it that ——— can sell your paper, the EVANGELIST for \$1.45, when you allow agents no commission? D. H.

Subscriptions are *due in advance*. The blue mark had no reference to past subscriptions "paid up" or otherwise. Credit has ruined more business houses than any thing else. While we would rather wait a few months on a subscriber than have him drop the paper both for his good and ours, we should educate ourselves to more promptness both in renewing and paying for our paper. The Publishing House owes us on our salary of \$50.00 per month for editing every dollar of the unpaid accounts of 1893. Having no other source of income, living and moving around where we could not raise even a plant, but having to pay out cash for every bite we ate, except such as charitable friends occasionally brought from their gardens, leaves us personally much embarrassed financially. Paper and printing are cash items.

In order to collect some accounts, and induce others to do a brother and Christian's duty in subscribing for the paper, it seems that all ordinary business and religious methods fail.

2. Our terms are uniform. C. B. has the same instructions from this office as yourself. Where agents *demand* it we have never yet refused to give them 10 per cent. on full paid subscriptions. But it was thought by the committee appointed by the conference to represent the church's interest in the Publishing House that since the paper is intended to be the property of the church the agent should do his work as a religious duty the same as the deacons or trustees do their theirs, with-